

CLAIM 1

A method of playing a wagering game including a dealer and at least one player comprising the steps of:

- (a). providing at least one standard deck of 52 playing cards;
- (b). providing a published ranking of winning hands ranked from highest to lowest;
- (c). providing a predetermined pay scale for winning hands;
- (d). providing a dealer and at least one player;
- (e). commencing the game by having at least one player make certain initial wagers selected from the following:
 - (1) a first wager against the dealer, and
 - (2) a separate voluntary wager against a predetermined pay scale;
- (f). dealing at least four cards to each player
- (g). dealing at least four cards to the dealer;
- (h). said player proceeding to play the game by placing a third support wager in support of its first wager against the dealer;
- (i). comparing the players best four card hand against the dealer's best four card hand and excluding all extra cards dealt to determine the relative ranking therebetween;
- (j). paying the players first wager against the dealer and player's third support wager if the player's hand outranks the dealer's hand;
- (k). paying the player's separate voluntary wager against the predetermined pay scale if the player's hand has achieved a rank at least as high as the first ranking from said published ranking;
- (l). taking the player's separate voluntary wager against the predetermined pay scale if the player fails to achieve at least the minimum ranking from said published ranking;

- (m). taking the player's first wager against the dealer and third support wager if the dealer's hand outranks the player's hand; and
- (n). returning the player's first wager against the dealer and third support wager if said player has the same ranking hand as the dealer.

CLAIM 2

The method of playing a wagering game as set forth in Claim 1 above, wherein a player is provided with an opportunity to place an additional bad beat wager including the further steps of:

- providing a pre-determined published ranking of winning bad beat hands,
- permitting the player to place an additional wager against said pre-determined published ranking of winning bad beat hands,
- providing that the player may win said additional wager even in the event the player's hand is outranked by the dealer's hand so long as the player's hand appears on the pre-determined published ranking of winning bad beat hands.

CLAIM 3

The method of playing a wagering game as set forth in Claim 1 above, wherein the dealer and each player is dealt five cards, and each the dealer and the player can continue play with the best hand achievable by any four of the five dealt cards and exclude the fifth card, and determining a winning hand by comparing the four card combination of each player's hand against the dealer's hand and against any pre-determined pay scale in the event of optional bets placed by the player by such pre-determined pay scales.

CLAIM 4

The method of playing a wagering game as set forth in Claim 1 above, which provides for players to place additional side bets, wherein the game further includes steps of:

- providing each player with an additional optional progressive wager for a five card progression,

providing a pre-determined published ranking of winning five card progressive hands,
providing a pre-determined pay scale for each of said pre-determined ranking of winning five card progressive hands,
allowing the wagering game to continue with the best of four cards,
and paying the players progressive optional wager if the player's five card hand matches any one of the pre-determined published ranking of winning five card progressive hands.

CLAIM 5

The method of playing a wagering game as set forth in Claim 1 above, wherein the dealer must achieve a qualifying hand of at least king high to continue playing and the failure to achieve said qualifying hand results in the dealer losing and paying each player the initial ante wager by each player against the dealer.

CLAIM 6

The method of playing a wagering game as set forth in Claim 5 above, wherein the necessary qualifying hand required by the dealer in order to continue to play may be pre-determined in accordance with any desired ranking.

CLAIM 7

A method of playing a wagering game including a dealer and at least one player comprising the steps of:

- (a). providing at least one standard deck of 52 playing cards;
- (b). providing a published ranking of winning hands ranked from highest to lowest;
- (c). providing a predetermined pay scale for winning hands;
- (d). providing a set pre-determined minimum hand ranking for a dealer to achieve as a qualifying hand without which a dealer will lose after all cards are dealt;

- (e). providing a dealer and at least one player;
- (f). commencing the game by having at least one player make certain initial wagers selected from the following:
 - (1) a first wager against the dealer, and
 - (2) a separate voluntary wager against a predetermined pay scale;
- (g). dealing at least four cards to each player
- (h). dealing at least four cards to the dealer;
- (i). ending the game if the dealer fails to achieve a qualifying hand in accordance with said pre-determined hand ranking and the dealer paying the player's wager if the player placed a first wager against the dealer and paying the players second wager if the player waged said separate wager against said pre-determined pay scale and achieved a ranking hand pursuant to said published ranking;
- (j). proceeding with the game if the dealer has achieved said qualifying hand;
- (k). said player proceeding to play the game by placing a third support wager in support of its first wager against the dealer;
- (l). comparing the players best four card hand against the dealer's best four card hand and excluding all extra cards dealt to determine the relative ranking therebetween;
- (m). paying the players first wager against the dealer and player's third support wager if the player's hand outranks the dealer's hand;
- (n). paying the player's separate voluntary wager against the predetermined pay scale if the player's hand has achieved a rank at least as high as the first ranking from said published ranking;
- (o). taking the player's separate voluntary wager against the predetermined pay scale if the player fails to achieve at least the minimum ranking from said published ranking;

- (p). taking the player's first wager against the dealer and third support wager if the dealer's hand outranks the player's hand; and
- (q). returning the player's first wager against the dealer and third support wager if said player has the same ranking hand as the dealer.

CLAIM 8

A method of playing a wagering game including a dealer and at least one player comprising the steps of:

- (a). providing at least one standard deck of 52 playing cards;
- (b). providing a published ranking of winning hands ranked from highest to lowest;
- (c). providing a predetermined pay scale for winning hands;
- (d). providing a set pre-determined minimum hand ranking for a player to achieve as a qualifying hand without which a player will lose after all cards are dealt;
- (e). providing a dealer and at least one player;
- (f). commencing the game by having at least one player make certain initial wagers selected from the following:
 - (1) a first wager against the dealer, and
 - (2) a separate voluntary wager against a predetermined pay scale;
- (g). dealing at least four cards to each player
- (h). dealing at least four cards to the dealer;
- (i). ending the game if the player fails to achieve a qualifying hand in accordance with said pre-determined hand ranking and the dealer taking the player's first wager;
- (j). proceeding with the game if the player has achieved said qualifying hand;
- (k). said player proceeding to play the game by placing a third support wager in support of its first wager against the dealer;

- (l). comparing the players best four card hand against the dealer's best four card hand and excluding all extra cards dealt to determine the relative ranking therebetween;**
- (m). paying the players first wager against the dealer and player's third support wager if the player's hand outranks the dealer's hand;**
- (n). paying the player's separate voluntary wager against the predetermined pay scale if the player's hand has achieved a rank at least as high as the first ranking from said published ranking;**
- (o). taking the player's separate voluntary wager against the predetermined pay scale if the player fails to achieve at least the minimum ranking from said published ranking;**